



NEWS RELEASE

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests Thunder Basin National Grassland

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr/news>

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Hog Park Lake Closures

(Saratoga, June 10, 2009) – – Hog Park Campground will be closed all season due to thousands of dead lodgepole pine in the campground. The Hog Park picnic area, to the west of the lake, is currently open but may be closed intermittently for hazard tree removal. The Hog Park boat ramp/picnic area is currently open, but will be closed when logging operations begin later in the summer. Many other Forest campgrounds are open and dispersed camping is still an option in the area, away from hazard trees and hazard tree removal areas.

Signs showing closures will be posted on major roads accessing Hog Park Lake. People are encouraged to call the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest at 307-326-5258 for the most current information. Information is also available at www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr/recreation.

Although closures to popular recreation sites are frustrating for recreationalists, removing hazard trees is important to protect people from deadly falling trees. The Forest Service is focusing on removing hazard trees from high-use sites and roads. Last year, the Forest Service removed about 500 beetle-infested trees from the Hog Park campground to keep the sites open, but there are thousands of dead trees in the campground now so much more work must be done.

Please be extra cautious in the forests this year, since the extensive beetle epidemic has killed almost all of the mature lodgepole pines trees and they are beginning to fall down. Dead trees can fall without warning, endangering people and blocking roads. Please watch out for falling trees.

Remember National Forests and Grasslands are public lands owned by all citizens, so please take care of your National Forest.

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